GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4583
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
INDO-BELARUS AGREEMENT ON BIO-TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS
NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Belarus have signed any agreement for Joint projects in Bio-technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of projects proposed to be started in collaboration with Belarus;

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be started;and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to transfer of the technology, in terms of products and processes from India ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) &(b) : The Department of Biotechnology and National Academy of Sciences, Belarus have signed a Protocol of Cooperation with an agreed Work Plan during June 2000 for implementing joint projects, exchange of visits, training and technology transfer in Agricultural Biotechnology, Medical Biotechnology, Basic Research in Molecular Biology and Bioorganic Chemistry. An India-Belarus Joint Biotechnology Panel has been constituted to oversee the progress of scientific, administrative and financial matters.

(c), (d) & (e) : Seven joint projects have been agreed for implementation during the year 2001. These include genetic transformation of potato, barley and wheat for high level of amino acids and disease resistance, genome analysis of flax and its relatives, development of novel biopesticides, utilisation of transgenic plants for the analysis of chlorophyll biosynthesis pathway and genetic manipulation of plants resistant to oxidation stress induced by pesticides. Modalities for technology transfer are under consideration, specially for diagnostics already transferred to some Indian industries.